

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 16467 031917Z

ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5394

UNCLAS MEXICO 16467

FOR: BITTNER, ARA/MEX

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, MX

SUBJECT: TEXT OF AMBASSADOR LUCEY'S LETTER TO EDITORS

REF: DUNN-BITTNER TELCON OCTOBER 3

1. HERewith TEXT OF LETTER TO MEDIA EDITORS FROM
AMBASSADOR LUCEY DATED SEPTEMBER 30:

2. SIR: I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY A MISINTERPRETATION
OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO ME IN THE MEDIA BASED
ON PRESS INTERVIEWS I GAVE RECENTLY IN SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS, ON THE MATTER OF THE CREATION OF A FUND OF
\$2 BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE CREATION OF JOBS IN
MEXICO AS A WAY OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOLUTION OF THE
UNDOCUMENTED WORKER PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. A PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A FUND WAS RECENTLY MADE IN A
SPEECH IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, BY SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN
OF THAT STATE. SENATOR BENTSEN'S PROPOSAL CALLS FOR
THE CREATION OF A "JOINT" U.S.-MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT
FUND, FINANCED BY BOTH COUNTRIES, TO CREATE INDUSTRIES
AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN REGIONS OF ORIGIN OF LARGE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 16467 031917Z

NUMBERS OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS. IN HIS SPEECH,
SENATOR BENTSEN STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE
DISCUSSED WITH MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FIRST, AND
IF THEIR REACTION IS FAVORABLE HE WILL THEN SPONSOR
THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION.

4. SOME MEDIA ELEMENTS HERE HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THIS

PROPOSAL BY SENATOR BENTSEN AND ATTRIBUTED TO ME THE STATEMENT THAT THIS IS A PROPOSAL OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. AS I HAVE TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH THE MEDIA, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS "NOT" MADE ANY PROPOSAL IN THIS REGARD. IN HIS AUGUST 4 MESSAGE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS PRESIDENT CARTER REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR THE CREATION OF JOBS IN NATIONS THAT ARE THE GREATEST SOURCE OF THESE WORKERS AND PLEDGED THE UNITED STATE'S READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH THOSE NATIONS THROUGH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS "NOT", UP TO NOW, MADE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IN THIS REGARD, ALTHOUGH SENATOR BENTSEN'S PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE IN THE SPIRIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF COOPERATING WITH THOSE NATIONS THAT PROVIDE THE LARGEST NUMBERS OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STRESS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANY PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, IN KEEPING WITH THE SYSTEM OF JOINT CONSULTATIONS ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENTS LOPEZ PORTILLO AND CARTER AT THEIR FEBRUARY MEETING, AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 16467 031917Z

6. I HOPE THAT THE ABOVE WILL SERVE TO CLEAR UP THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT HAVE ARISEN OVER THIS MATTER OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS. SINCERELY,
SIGNED PATRICK J. LUCEY, AMBASSADOR. LUCEY

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